



4/2/03

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

- The Senate approved the nomination of Lynn Jondahl to the State Board of Ethics [RC 53: 37 yes, 0 no]. Sen. Emerson stated that he was proud to speak in support of this nomination and that the Governor could not have made a better choice, since Mr. Jondahl has always exhibited the highest level of ethics.
- The Senate approved the nomination of Jim Byrum to the Commission of Agriculture [RC 54: 37 yes, 0 no]. Sen. Brater, in support of the nomination, stated that Mr. Byrum has been a strong advocate for agricultural interests in Michigan. Sen. Barica called Mr. Byrum a tireless champion for agricultural interests in Michigan.
- The Senate approved the nomination of Sheriff Gene Wigglesworth to the MI Commission on Law Enforcement Standards [RC 55: 37 yes, 0 no]. Sen. Bernero noted that it had been an honor to work with Sheriff Wigglesworth while he (Bernero) was a member of the Ingham County Commission. The Senator called Sheriff Wigglesworth a “consummate professional” who had set the standard for law enforcement officials.

FINAL PASSAGE

HB 4079 (Woronchak)

NURSING HOME COMPLAINTS

First, HB 4079 amends current law provisions which require the Department of Consumer and Industry Services to distribute a pamphlet outlining the procedure for filing a complaint by specifying that the pamphlet be printed in large type and utilize easily-understood, non-technical language. Second, the bill adds a new requirement that the department develop and distribute a model standardized complaint form containing certain information along with the pamphlet. Finally, the bill requires the department to take affirmative action towards the development and implementation of an electronic filing system to allow individuals to file nursing home complaints on-line.

FOR (AARP): House Bill 4079 is needed to ensure a timely response to consumer complaints about violations of nursing home laws and regulations that place a resident in jeopardy.

4/1:

- HB 4079 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

4/2:

- HB 4079 passed [RC 58: 38 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

HB 4139 (RIVET)

MILITARY HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act permits a member of the armed forces who was resident of the state at the time of enlistment or has maintained a residence in the state, and who is stationed outside of the state, to obtain a hunting or fishing license (if not distributed on the basis of a lottery) for \$1 and the presentation of leave papers.

The bill would amend the act to permit the individual to present duty papers, military orders, or other evidence acceptable to the Department of Natural Resources that verifies that he or she is stationed outside of the state.

4/1:

- *Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].*
- *HB 4139 was moved to 3rd Reading.*

4/2:

- HB 4139 passed [RC 56: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

HB 4198 (LaSata)

PERSONAL RISK/INJURY

House Bill 4198 would specify that a person who participates in the sport of snowmobiling does not thereby accept the risk for injuries to persons or property that can result from the careless or negligent use of a snowmobile by another person.

For (MTLA): Even those snowmobilers who take every recommended precaution to help make snowmobiling a fun and safe experience for themselves and others may find themselves victims of other snowmobilers' carelessness or negligence. Under current law, a snowmobiler who is injured in this way has no legal recourse. It seems unfair not to hold snowmobilers responsible for careless or negligent behavior when they cause accidents injuring other snowmobilers.

4/1:

- *HB 4198 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.*

4/2:

- HB 4198 passed [RC 57: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

THIRD READING

SB 157 (SCOTT)

DETROIT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

SB 157 would moved up (from November 2004 general election to the August 2003 primary election) the election of whether to retain the current (appointed) school reform board and chief executive officer in the city of Detroit.

- SB 157 was moved to 3rd Reading. Sen. Scott stated that the people of Detroit have waited long enough – they deserve to have their voices be heard.

HB 4010 (DeRossett)

TAX ABATEMENT FOR BIODIESEL FUEL MANUFACTURERS

House Bill 4010 would extend tax abatements (local governmental units may provide new, renovated, or expanded industrial facilities with property tax abatements for up to 12 years) to those businesses that are engaged in the creation or synthesis of biodiesel fuel.

[Currently there are no firms in Michigan that produce biodiesel fuel. Due to the fact that the number of firms that might engage in this activity in the future is not known, it is not possible to accurately determine the potential fiscal impact.]

FOR: Michigan Farm Bureau, The Michigan Soybean Association -- encouraging the manufacture of biodiesel fuel in Michigan would be a great asset to the state's soybean industry.

- McManus 1 was adopted [no RC]. This would add biomass fuels to the bill.
- HB 4010 was moved to 3rd Reading. Sen. Prusi spoke in support of the bill: This is good for economic development in Michigan and it's good for our environment.